

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-10 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 MC-02 EB-07

COME-00 /073 W

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P 041454Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4084

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

OSAF IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 4970

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, BE

SUBJECT: F-104 REPLACEMENT: BELGIAN DECISION POSTPONED UNTIL
JUNE 7

SUMMARY. PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCED THAT BELGIAN DECISION WOULD BE
POSTPONED UNTIL SATURDAY JUNE 7 AND THAT PARILAMENT WOULD BE
INFORMED ON TUESDAY JUNE 10. END SUMMARY

1. AT CONCLUSION OF FOUR-HOUR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING JUNE 3,
PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS ACCOMPANIED BY MOD VANDEN BOEYNANTS MET
WITH PRESS AND READ PREPARED STATEMENT WHICH, IN SUMMARY, SAID:
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAD MET IN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION TO HEAR
REPORT FROM MOD VANDEN BOEYNANTS ON HIS MEETING WITH SECDEF IN
WASHINGTON. "NEW ELEMENTS" RESULTED FROM THAT TRIP. BELGIAN
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GOVERNMENT RECALLS ITS EFFORTS OVER LAST FEW MONTHS TO EXPLORE

POSSIBILITY OF INTEGRATING EUROPEAN AIRCRAFT INDUSTRIES AND REGRETS LACK OF RESULTS FROM THOSE EFFORT. DECISION ON F-104 REPLACEMENT WILL BE MADE AT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 10 AM SATURDAY JUNE 7. PARILAMENT WILL BE INFORMED ON TUESDAY, JUNE 10.

2. IN BRIEF QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD FOLLOWING READING OF PREPARED STATEMENT FOLLOWING POINTS EMERGED: 1) VDB SAID THAT "NEW ELEMENTS" REFERRED TO IN PREPARED STATEMENT CONCERNED: (A) GUARANTEES ON PRICE AND NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT US WOULD PURCHASE;(B) PROCEDURES FOR DECISION-MAKING IN F-16 MANAGEMENT PROGRAM; AND (C) BETTER ECONOMIC COMPENSATIONS. 2) PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DEBATE TODAY HAD NOT FINISHED AND THAT SOME MINISTERS HAD HAD TO BE ABSENT. 3) PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER FOREIGN CONTACTS BETWEEN NOW AND SATURDAY.

3. ACCORDING TO BELGIAN NEWSPAPERMAN WHO SPOKE TO RASSEMBLEMENT WALLON (RW) MEMBER OF CABINET, GOL, BEFORE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT, DECISION WAS POSTPONED UNTIL SATURDAY AND RW WOULD MEET JUNE 4 TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT WOULD ALIGN ITS POSITION WITH REST OF TINDEMANS' COALITION PARTIES. RENNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, AIRCRAFT SALES, PRESS RELEASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BRUSSE04970
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750195-0396
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750679/aaaactyg.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAR 2003 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <29 JAN 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: F-104 REPLACEMENT: BELGIAN DECISION POSTPONED UNTIL JUNE 7
TAGS: MASS, BE
To: STATE OSAF
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006